VLER Strategic Vision Approach Document

Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER)

Enterprise Program Management Office (EPMO)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) will enable the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and its partners to proactively provide the full continuum of services and benefits to Veterans through Veteran-centric processes made possible by effective, efficient, and secure standards-based information sharing. VLER is neither an IT program nor an information service provider. VLER is a multi-faceted business and technology initiative that includes a portfolio of health, benefits, and personnel information sharing capabilities. When VLER is fully implemented, all information needed to quickly and accurately provide services and benefits to our Service members and Veterans will be exchanged electronically and proactively, putting the right information in front of the right people at the right time for them to take action.

While there are many components to the successful implementation of the VLER concept, none are more important nor core than the ability to effectively, efficiently, and securely share data across VA, and among VA, Department of Defense (DoD), Social Security Administration (SSA), and with other federal agencies, state, local, and other Non-Government Organization (NGO) partners.

2. DELIVERABLE OVERVIEW / PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to help leadership prioritize efforts underway and identify any gaps for potential new efforts, opportunities and/or partners. It describes the VLER architecture scope, vision and plan, which outlines an architecture framework. This document also includes a review of architecture gathered to date and will provide monthly updates of new architecture. Overall, this document outlines the Business Architecture Framework (BAF) and aligns VLER office inter-agency and VA initiatives (e.g., Rating Schedule Automation) with documented use cases – including both those developed jointly by Health Executive Council (HEC)/Benefits Executive Council (BEC)/Joint Executive Council (JEC) and those that are VA driven.

As VLER graduates from Major Initiative status and the VLER Enterprise Program Management Office (EPMO) assumes new tasks within Architecture, Strategy, and Design (ASD), Office of Technology Strategies (TS), the scope of the work performed and deliverables created will change. Future versions of this deliverable will reflect the evolving nature of that work.

3. ARCHITECTURE OVERVIEW

Our architecture is comprised of models which document the current environment of VLER capability areas. This architecture supports VLER's goal to support the collaborative sharing of electronic administrative, personnel, and health information for disability claims processing. It is intended to make information sharing easier, more transparent, secure and consistent with Service member and Veteran preferences. In addition, it encourages and leverages the architectural best practice of re-use by using existing architectural products and aligning them to the Business Architecture Framework, and is an effective means to define and understand the communication boundaries between partners.

3.1 Scope

Until further definition, ASD (TS) will continue to use the use cases developed by VLER. VLER's use cases are a high level-textual description of a business process (to include trigger and end events), type of benefit received, and high-level business rules. It is important to note that the term "use case" is derived from the Benefits Executive Council (BEC)-developed interagency use cases, which served as the initial VLER use cases. These documents provide an

understanding of the purpose for an information exchange by tying it to a business use which is similar to, but not the same as, use cases as they relate to the development of requirements within the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC).

Table 1: Benefit Types and Use Cases

Benefit Type	Use Case
Healthcare	• VHA Enhanced Health Care Benefit Eligibility for Discharged Combat Veterans
Disability	• Social Security Disability Insurance • Supplemental Security Income • VA Disability Compensation Evaluation for Increased Rating • VA Disability Compensation Original Service Connection Determination
Education Benefits	• Education and Vocational Counseling • Education Assistance Test Program • Montgomery GI Bill AD • Montgomery GI Bill SR • National Call to Service Program • Post 9-11 GI Bill • Post-Vietnam Era Educational Assistance • Reserve Education Assistance Program • Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program
Housing	• Expanded Homeowners Assistance Program • Native American Direct Loan • Specially Adapted Housing • VA Home Loan Guaranty
Insurance	• Accelerated Benefits Option, Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services • Family Servicemembers Group Life Insurance • Gratuitous Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance • Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance • Servicemembers Group Life Insurance Disability Extension • Servicemembers Group Life Insurance • Supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance • Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection Program • Veterans Group Life Insurance • Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance • Waiver of Premiums
Readjust-ment	• Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program

Memorial/ Burial	• Burial Allowance • Government-Issued Headstone or Marker for Burial in a Private Cemetery • Interment in a VA National Cemetery • Government-Issued Medallion for Private Grave • Presidential Memorial Certificate

3.2 Architecture Vision

The architecture vision will be updated as the responsibilities of ASD (TS) with regard to architecture are defined. For the moment, we will use the vision developed for VLER to improve, reengineer, and integrate information sharing best practices. The initiative is essential to VA's transformation effort because it revolutionizes the exchange of information between VA and its partners through the use of Enterprise Services. The architecture can help guide enterprise transition to electronic information sharing by identifying sharing gaps or paper-based exchanges. The architecture supports VA's vision to enable exchange of health information with the DoD and private health care organizations to support clinical care; as well as the exchange of benefits and administrative information necessary to achieve the goals of Disability, Education Benefits, and Housing and deliver a wide range of benefits, such as streamlining the delivery of burial benefits and proactive outreach to homeless and at-risk Veterans.

3.3 Architecture Supports the VA Strategic Plan

Architecture supports the 2011-2015 VA Strategic Plan refresh, which highlights the importance of architecture in development of a strategic framework and create a design that allows all caregiver, adjudicators, and other service providers access to the information needed to be more efficient and effective to accomplish their duties. Our architecture approach supports VA's strategic goals by documenting the processes, information exchange and systems necessary to create a baseline from which transformation decisions are made to modernize business practices. Analyzing our architecture will help VA make decisions on how to improve, reengineer, and integrate information sharing best practices. This supports VA's Strategic Plan to transform the Department from a stove-piped benefits delivery organization, to deliver seamless integration of all information.

4. BUSINESS ARCHITECTURE FRAMEWORK

The architecture approach includes a framework that shows the relationship between ASD (TS) and business needs. The Business Architecture Framework (BAF), shown in Figure 1 below, is a synchronization of efforts by business stakeholders and technical leaders to create and validate architectural products to implement Enterprise Services. This approach will help us prioritize development for exchanging data using Enterprise Services. The framework shows the relationship between the business need to the technical architectural products needed for the solution. The framework ties to clear, repeatable activities and specific architectural products that will provide an overarching view and help leadership prioritize efforts.

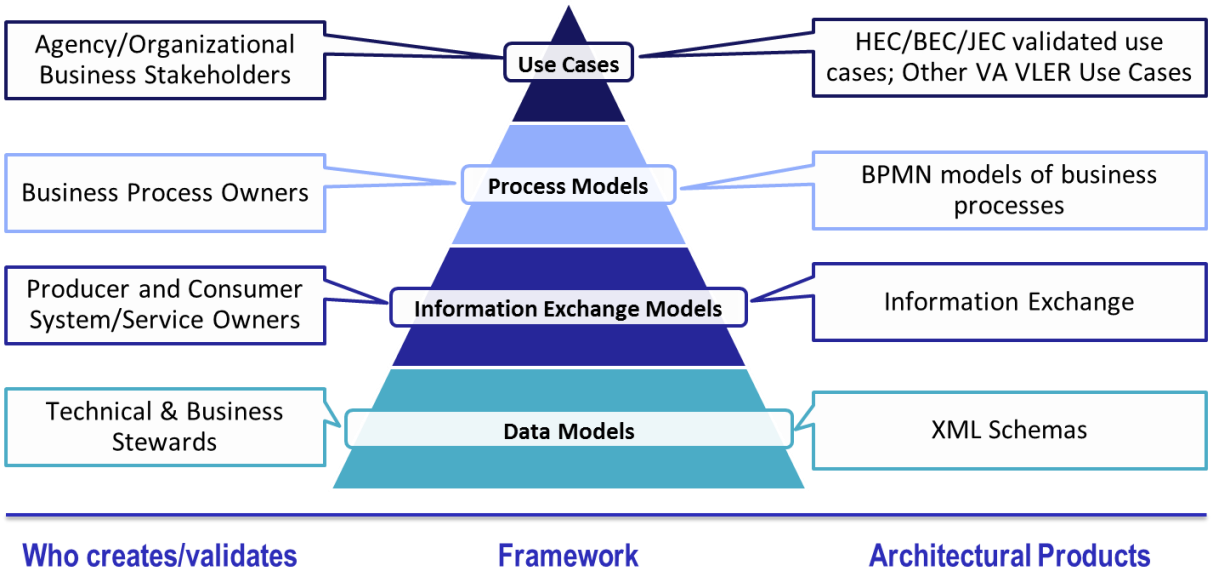

Figure 1: Business Architecture Framework

4.1 Use Cases/User Stories

VLER has used the 36 use cases which were developed by the BEC and its sub-boards. The BEC's sub-boards are also developing additional joint use cases as part of an effort to define the expanded capabilities for VLER. Since all VLER architecture is driven by the business, development of a new architecture thread will occur for any new use cases.

4.2 Process Models

The architecture team will leverage existing process models for inclusion in VLER architecture. A major source of process models is the Data Governance Council, which has developed a series of process models that coincide with business areas in the VLER portfolio. If a process model is needed and has not been developed by the Data Governance Council, VLER will look to other enterprise sources of input to leverage an existing model. Additionally, VLER has developed process models which map to the VA Disability Compensation Original Service Connection Determination use case.

4.3 Information Exchange Models

VLER is responsible for developing and maintaining information exchange models which relate to the BAF. As of the current date, VLER has developed at least one information exchange per use case with further decomposition for disability compensation, education and memorials. Documenting information exchange will continue until all business areas have fully developed exchanges. A listing of information exchanges gathered to date are shown in the Appendix of this document. The Appendix will be updated on a monthly basis as more exchanges are developed.

4.4 Alignment of Initiatives to Use Cases

This table will be updated as responsibilities of ASAD (TS) are defined and mapped to initiatives. For now, this table will address VLER's ongoing initiatives and alignment to use cases. A mapping of initiatives to use cases is shown below in Table 2.

Table 2: Initiative to Use Case Alignment

Initiative	Initiative Description	Use Cases
Data Access Service (DAS)	The Data Access Service provides standardized and secure access to health, benefits, memorials, and personnel data by brokering consumer requests for information with the authoritative producer sources of that information, whether they are within VA, DoD, or other external partner information sources.	ALL
Veteran Authorization Preference (VAP/VAPii)	The interaction between VAP and VAPii allows Veterans to securely and safely disclose their personal information, while simultaneously managing their privacy preferences.	ALL*
Disability Benefit Questionnaire (DBQs)	DBQs are streamlined examination forms designed to capture essential medical information for purposes of evaluating VA disability compensation and/or pension claims from Veterans or Service members.	Disability Compensation
Information Sharing Initiative (ISI)	ISI supports interagency information sharing by making authoritative data accessible to these case management and care coordination personnel to ensure services and benefits are planned, managed and delivered consistently and correctly to beneficiaries.	Disability Compensation; Interagency Care Coordination**
Integrated Disability Evaluation System/Electronic Case File Transfer (IDES/eCFT)	The eCFT module enables VA and the Military Services to meet the Secretary of VA and the Secretary of Defense's directive to create a paperless, searchable Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) claims file transferred between VA and DoD.	Disability Compensation; Interagency Care Coordination**
Memorials/National Cemetery Administration	The Memorial Affairs Redesign (MAR) provides the management, business, and technical services needed to design a system replacement; this includes enabling Veterans and their dependents to apply for burial and memorial benefits on a pre-need basis via the eBenefits portal.	Burial Allowance, Government-Issued Headstone or Marker for Burial in a Private Cemetery, Interment in a VA National Cemetery, Government-Issued Medallion for Private Grave, Presidential Memorial Certificate
Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) Act	The Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 provides seamless transition for Service members, expands education and training opportunities for Veterans, and provides tax credits for employers who hire Veterans with service-connected disabilities.	VOW***
Interagency Care Coordination Committee (IC3)	The IC3 was charged by the Secretaries with developing recommendations and taking actions based on the principals of One Mission – One Policy – One Plan in support of the care, benefits, and services provided to wounded, ill, and injured Service members and Veterans throughout the VA and non-VA care continuum.	Interagency Care Coordination**
Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT)	FCMT is used by Federal Recovery Care Coordinators to document and track healthcare, currently focused on severely wounded, ill, and injured Service members and Veterans.	Interagency Care Coordination**

Initiative	Initiative Description	Use Cases

* While not fully determined, it's likely that all use cases will have at least one information exchange requiring consent from a Veteran.

** This use case is In Development by ASD (TS).

*** A use case for VOW Act has been identified as a need, but no determination has been made as to who will develop and/or approve it.

4.5 Relationship to OneVA Enterprise Architecture

ASD is currently building VA's enterprise architecture, OneVA EA. In figure 1, OneVA EA Business Reference Model (BRM) accounts for the core capabilities and business processes that the Chief Technology Strategist supports. As referenced in Table 1, ASD (TS)'s use cases are organized into capability areas by benefit types. Many of the benefit types are consistent with Veteran Service's areas in ASD's BRM. For example, ASD (TS)'s benefit types include compensation, insurance, loans, education, vocational rehabilitation & employment (VR&E) and memorials, all of which are Service areas in the BRM. Because of this similarity, ASD (TS) will be able to contribute to the architecture development of these service areas through execution of the BAF. Specifically, ASD (TS) is documenting information exchanges for our use cases and we have published the first Information Exchange to OneVA EA. ASD (TS) will continue to publish future iterations of the matrix as additional exchanges are documented per use case. ASD (TS) will leverage existing architecture and or health systems/applications to support VA non-health Veteran benefit claims processing. In addition, while the Pension service area has not been fully explored, the BEC is currently developing a use case for the Death Pension benefit area. Through these current and future architecture linkages, ASD (TS) will continue to provide information exchange models to complement ASD's efforts to build the OneVA EA.

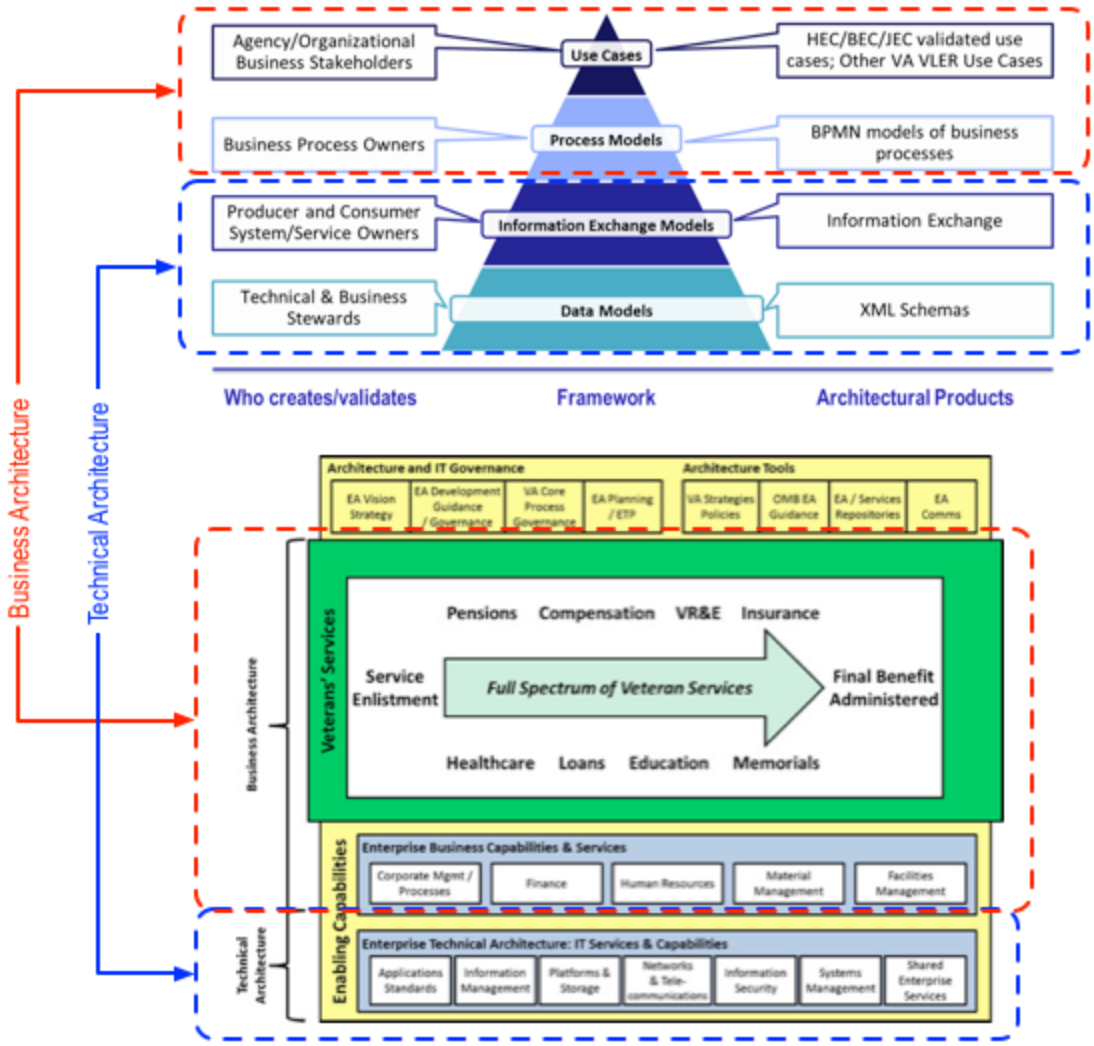

Figure 3: Relationship between BAF and OneVA EA

4.6 Relationship to Integrated Electronic Health Record

The Integrated Electronic Health Record (iEHR) is a collaborative partnership between VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) to modernize legacy health care information systems and achieve significant improvement in the capturing, storing and sharing of electronic health information. The iEHR is a critical component of the broader information sharing effort. VA has assigned its VLER Health Project Management Office to the Interagency Program Office (IPO). VLER Health PMO provides the necessary planning and execution management to ensure complementary, mutually supporting deliverables between the IPO and VA IT program management offices delivering other elements. ASD (TS) will ensure our strategies and technical approaches align to support the future sharing of health data for the purposes of providing benefits. For example, future plans call for service interface between Data Access Services and the Enterprise Service Bus for VLER Health to allow VA to gather medical evidence, provide case management or process a claim. In addition, ASD (TS) will continue to collaborate with iEHR and VLER Health to support enterprise data sharing through development

of data standards and implementing a SOA framework through data sharing architecture initiatives focused on federated data, infrastructure and application standards and guidance.

4.7 Architecture Development

Table 3 shows the mapping of the architecture products included in the BAF. The architecture includes use cases, process models, information exchange, system interface diagrams and XML schemas. The architecture is driven by use cases. The use cases specifically detail a business area with associated actors, triggers, business rules, laws, regulations, policies, and outline the data required for performance of a business area. The next level is the process level, represented by a process model showing the actors involved and tasks performed. A single use case may be represented by more than one business process. For example, the Disability Compensation use case is represented by the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, Benefits Delivery at Discharge, Quick Start or by Veterans filing an initial claim years after separating. The process level is followed by the information exchange and includes an exchange description, how the information is shared, identification of the actors or systems exchanging information and mapping to a use case. The next level is a system and service interface level showing system and service connections representing a single process or multiple business areas. The next level is information collection which includes identification of business and technical data stewards. The information collection is discussed in detail in the Functionality of Data Exchange Capabilities document and progress at the data level will be shown in that document. Table 3, as shown in section 4.8.2, be updated on a monthly basis as more products are started, developed and completed.

4.8 Approach for New Architecture Development

For the time being, ASD (TS) will leverage VLER's BAF approach. The BAF will help ASD (TS) prioritize use cases based on business need, and develop associated information exchanges to identify producers and consumers. We have some recommendations to help decide future priorities for architecture development and to execute the Business Architecture Framework.

Since there are many similarities between ASD (TS)'s benefit types and ASDs Service Areas (as discussed in section 4.5, Relationship to OneVA Enterprise Architecture), ASD (TS) will leverage this existing documentation to support the development of future information exchanges. ASD (TS) will explore the business and technical layers of OneVA EA, such as:

- The **Business Functional Model**, which shows high level business functions and activities of business lines across the enterprise and identifies information collected or sent by the business. This can be used to help prioritize a new business area for information exchange development or validate an existing matrix.
- The **Business Reference Model**, which describes core business activities for business lines across the enterprise and can be used to identify or align our business areas with ASD.
- The **Business Process Layer**, which capture specific tasks completed by actors and how information flows among actors internal and external to a process. ASD releases process models developed by the Data Governance Council or the Process Modeling Data Center and ASD (TS) can use these published models to draft an initial version of information exchange.
- The **Technical Reference Model**, which establishes a common vocabulary and structure for describing the information technology used to develop, operate, and maintain enterprise applications. At this layer, VLER is working with ASD on the Enterprise Logical Data Model (ELDM), which aligns data elements to benefit types.

Since we already are working closely with ASD in many areas of architecture, we will use a combination of these sources (process, functional and data models) to help decide development of new architecture based on enterprise and business priority. We will seek business input to decide the order to decompose the new Information Exchanges.

Table 3: Architecture Development

Use Case Name	Use Case	Process Model	Information Exchange	Information Collection
Accelerated Benefits	Completed* by JEC	Not Started**	Started by ASD (TS)***	Started by ASD (TS)
Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Burial Allowance	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Educational and Vocational Counseling	Completed by JEC	Completed by DGC	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Educational Assistance Test Program	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Family Servicemembers Group Life Insurance	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Government Issued Headstone or Marker for Burial in a Private Cemetery	Completed by JEC	Completed by DGC	Completed by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Gratuitous Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Homeowners Assistance Program	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Interment VA Cemetery	Completed by JEC	Completed by DGC	Completed by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Medallion for Grave Use	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Montgomery GI Bill-AD	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Montgomery GI Bill-SR	Completed by JEC	Completed by DGC	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
National Call to Service	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Native American Direct Loan	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Post 9-11 GI Bill	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Completed by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Presidential Memorial Certificate	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Reserve Educational Assistance Program	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Service Disabled Veteran's Insurance	Completed by JEC	Completed by DGC	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)

Use Case Name	Use Case	Process Model	Information Exchange	Information Collection
Servicemembers Group Life Insurance Disability Extension	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Servicemembers Group Life Insurance	Completed by JEC	Completed by DGC	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Social Security Disability Insurance	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Specially Adapted Housing	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Supplemental Security Income	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Supplemental Service Disabled Veteran's Insurance	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Traumatic Servicemembers Group Life Insurance	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
VA Disability Compensation - Evaluation for Increased Rating	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started
Post Discharge Claim from Veteran	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started
VA Disability Compensation - Original SC Determination	Completed by JEC	Completed by ASD (TS)	Completed by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Integrated Disability Evaluation System		Completed by ASD (TS)	Completed by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Benefits Delivery at Discharge		Completed by ASD (TS)	Completed by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
QuickStart		Completed by ASD (TS)	Completed by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Post Discharge Claim from Veteran	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
VA Home Loan Guaranty	Completed by JEC	Completed by DGC	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Veterans Group Life Insurance	Completed by JEC	Completed by DGC	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
VHA Enhanced Healthcare Eligibility	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment	Completed by JEC	Completed by DGC	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
Waiver of Premiums	Completed by JEC	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)
VOW Act	Not Started	Not Started	Started by ASD (TS)	Started by ASD (TS)

Use Case Name	Use Case	Process Model	Information Exchange	Information Collection
*Completed: a model that has been completed. **Not Started: a model that has not begun development. ***Started: a model that has been started, but is not currently in development. ****In Development: a model that is currently in development.				

4.9 Conclusion

At the time of this writing, our office will not continue to develop Information Exchanges due to the transition of VLER to the Office of Technology Strategies. To support the transition, we will package up this document, the Information Exchange Model, use cases and relevant process models to support the enterprise wide data sharing approach outlined in the Data Sharing Strategy. That way, the office responsible for implementing data sharing has a valid architecture to requirements approach.

Since we will no longer be executing the Business Architecture Framework, this document will be updated in the future as the CTS Office continues to be defined. Current plans include using future iterations of the Strategic Vision Approach as a way to align Technical Assessments to the IT Roadmap. This will help provide strategic direction regarding VA's to-be technology vision and whether or not to incorporate particular technologies.

5. APPENDIX

VLER Information Exchange Sept 2013 C

6. GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
AMAS	Automated Monument Management System
ASD	Architecture, Strategy and Design
BAF	Business Architecture Framework
BDN	Benefits Delivery Network
BEC	Benefits Executive Council
BEC IS/IT RWG	Benefits Executive Council Information Support/Information Technology Requirements Working Group
BHIE	Bidirectional Health Information Exchange
BIRLS	Beneficiary Identification Record Locator Service
BOSS	Burial Operations Support System
CDM	Conceptual Data Model
Consumer	System that is registered to the DAS and authorized to connect to it in order to utilize Veteran data services to support VA and partners' initiatives to provide for Veterans health, benefits and memorials services.
CRM	Customer Relationship Management software
DAS	Data Access Service
Data	An individual element of text, a number, a date, a logical representation, or a binary object (such as an image) to represent or measure a real world object. Examples would include a first or last name, an x-ray image, a zip code, or a Veteran's age.
Data At Rest	Data while it is being stored in a transactional system, or a data warehouse or other store. Data Governance at VA currently focuses on data at rest, and establishes stewardship of data in systems designated as authoritative sources. As data standards are put in place and authoritative sources assigned, the standardization of data in motion would be made simpler with less translation.
Data Element	A specific data that corresponds or is required by a data base, or collection of data
Data Field	An expected format or entry of data in a collection of data managed by a service and managed by a schema

Data Sharing	For the purposes of this strategy discussion, *data sharing* and *information sharing* will be considered synonymous. The concept of *sharing* refers to a source system electronically making information available to another via any means. This could mean making information visible to another system, or the electronic transfer of information from one system to another. We sometimes refer to this as "*data in motion*." Data in motion at VA will be passed via *XML Document* (see below). This does not include the manual exchange of paper documentation, or scans of paper documents transferred via electronic means.
Data Type	An expected format or entry of data in a collection of data managed by a service and managed by a schema; used interchangeably with *data field*
DBQs	Disability Benefit Questionnaire
DMDC	Defense Manpower Data Center
DoD P&R	Department of Defense Personnel and Readiness office
eCFT	Electronic Case File Transfer
FHIE	Federal Health Information Exchange
FNOD	First Notice of Death
HEC	Health Executive Council
IC3	Interagency Care Coordination Committee
IDES	Integrated Disability Evaluation System/\
iEHR	Integrated Electronic Health Record
Information	A collection of data arranged in a meaningful way for a user. For a simple example, an address is a collection of street address, city, state, and zip code. A more complex example might be a benefits claim, containing many data elements of different types.
Information Collection Hierarchy	An ordered set of subject areas or information viewpoints designed to arrange VA information in a comprehensive and logical manner. At the highest level of the hierarchy are nodes for health, benefits, memorials, and personnel. For example, under benefits would be each of the numerous benefits offered by VA to Veterans and their families, such as Disability Compensation or Death Pension. Within an individual benefit would be listed an application, a contact log, a decision, supporting documentation, etc. Each lowest level node on the hierarchy is expressed and validated via an *XML Schema*.
Information Exchange	Information exchanged between people, systems and the relevant attributes of that exchange such as media format, sending and receiving role.
ISI	Information Sharing Initiative
JEC	Joint Executive Council
LENS	Life Event Notification Service

MVI	Master Veteran Index
NCA	National Cemetery Administration
Process Model	A model showing a sequence of actions in a scenario and sequence of events.
Producer	System that is registered to the DAS and authorized to connect to it in order to make available Veteran data services to support of VA and partners' initiatives to provide for Veterans health, benefits and memorials services.
RRTF	Ruthless Reduction Task Force
SSA	Social Security Agency
STR	Service Treatment Records
System Interface Diagram	A visual data flow of system or service interfaces at different levels of system hierarchy.
Use Case	A list of steps, typically defining interactions between a role and a system, to achieve a goal.
User Story	A high level textual description of what a user does or needs to do as part of his or her job function; the story forms the basis for defining the functions a business system must provide.
VADIR	VA and DoD Information Repository
VADS	Veterans Assistance at Discharge System
VAP	Veteran Authorization Preference
VBA	Veterans' Benefit Agency
VBMS	Veterans Benefits Management System
VHA	Veterans' Health Agency
VLER	Veteran Lifetime Electronic Record
VLER Health	Veteran Lifetime Electronic Record, as it pertains to veterans' health data as managed via VHA health information system initiatives
VOW	Veterans Opportunity to Work Act
VRM	Veteran Relationship Management system
VRMS	Veteran Re-entry Matching System
VTA	Veterans Tracking Application
XML Document	The document in which information is actually transferred. The document contains "tagged" data, which names the data to give it a context, so that consumers of a document can pull the information they need without having to parse data from specific positions in a document. For example, an XML document might contain a Veteran's name, address, contact information, and a list of dependents. The document contains a reference to the type of information and the actual value of the data

	element (<DateOfBirth>1958-12-22</DateOfBirth>)
XML Schema	A description of a type of XML document, typically expressed in terms of constraints on the structure and content of documents of that type. An XML document (in the context of this document, an information exchange) is an instance of an XML Schema. All XML Schemas will be held in a repository accessible by all producer and consumer systems. An XML Document will be required to validate against its corresponding Schema. This ensures all data exchanges follow the established standards. To continue the example, and XML Schema entry for the date of birth might bet set as (<xs:element name="DateOfBirth" type="xs:date" />) for all schemas.